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Moderator

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Session Agenda



- 9:30** Part 1: Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission Final Report and proposed action plan
- 10:30** Coffee break presented by Agria
- 11:00** Part 2: Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission Final Report and proposed action plan
Questions & discussion
- 12:30** Lunch

A. EEWBC- REPORT

24+6(early)
Recommendations

6 Areas of priority
32 Key issues
(Fig 1 p. 10)



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32 Key issues
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B. Suggested approach (Fig 12 p.25)



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32 Key issues
(Fig 1 p. 10)

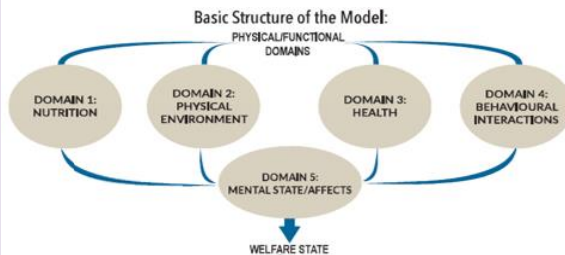


B. Suggested approach (Fig 12 p.25)



C. Tools for action:

I) The Five Domains (Mellor et al., 2017, 2020)



II) The 6 Enablers (fig 7 p. 19)



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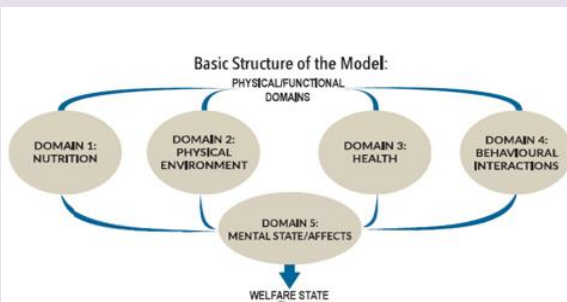


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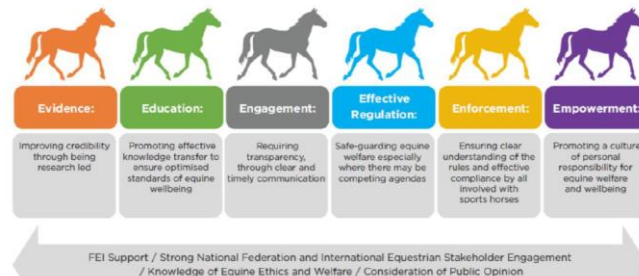


C. Tools for action:

I) The Five Domains (Mellor et al., 2017, 2020)



II) The 6 Enablers (fig 7 p. 19)



FEI Equine Welfare Strategy



WELFARE VISION:

A Good Life for Horses

**To acknowledge and respect
the natural needs of horses
within the context of
international equestrian
sports**

WELFARE MISSION:

**We serve as the guardians of FEI
horses by formulating and
implementing rules, guidelines,
educational programs and other
initiatives.**

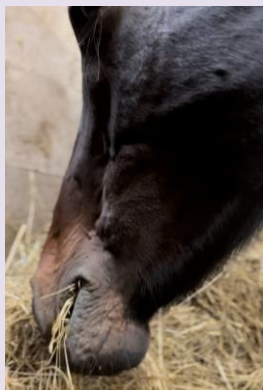
If necessary, we apply sanctions to ensure good horse welfare with the overall mission to lead, drive and develop equestrian sport globally.

THE FIVE DOMAINS (Mellor et al. 2020)



1

Nutrition



2

Physical environment



3

Health and fitness



4

...with the environment



4

...with other horses



4

...with humans



INTERACTIONS

5

Positive mental state = GOOD WELFARE



Evidence:



Education:



Engagement:



Effective
Regulation:



Enforcement:



Empowerment:

Implementing the EEWBC enablers within the FEI organisation





Evidence:



Education:



Engagement:



Effective Regulation:

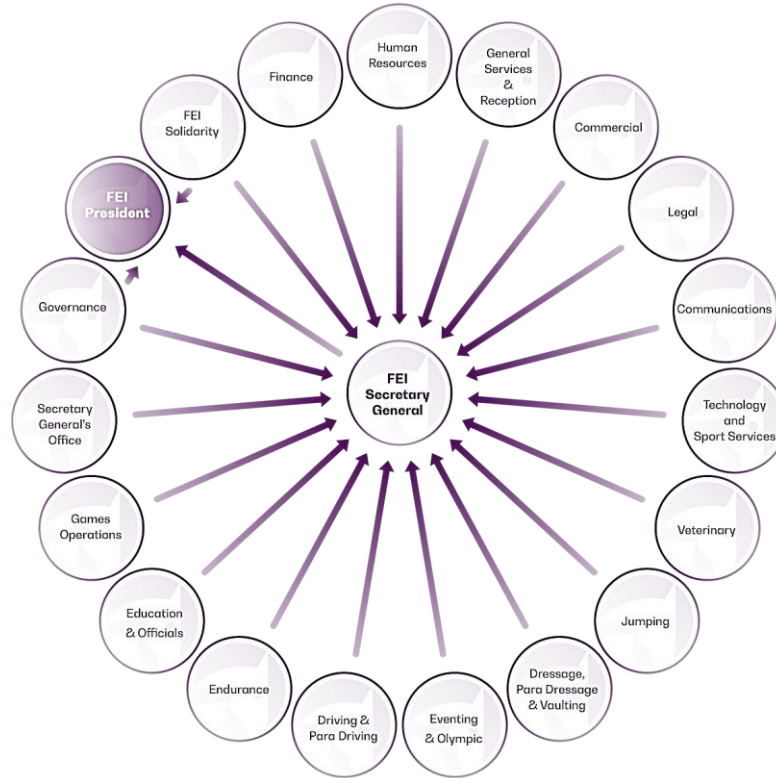


Enforcement:



Empowerment:

Implementing the EEWBC enablers within the FEI organisation





Evidence:



Education:



Engagement:



Effective Regulation:

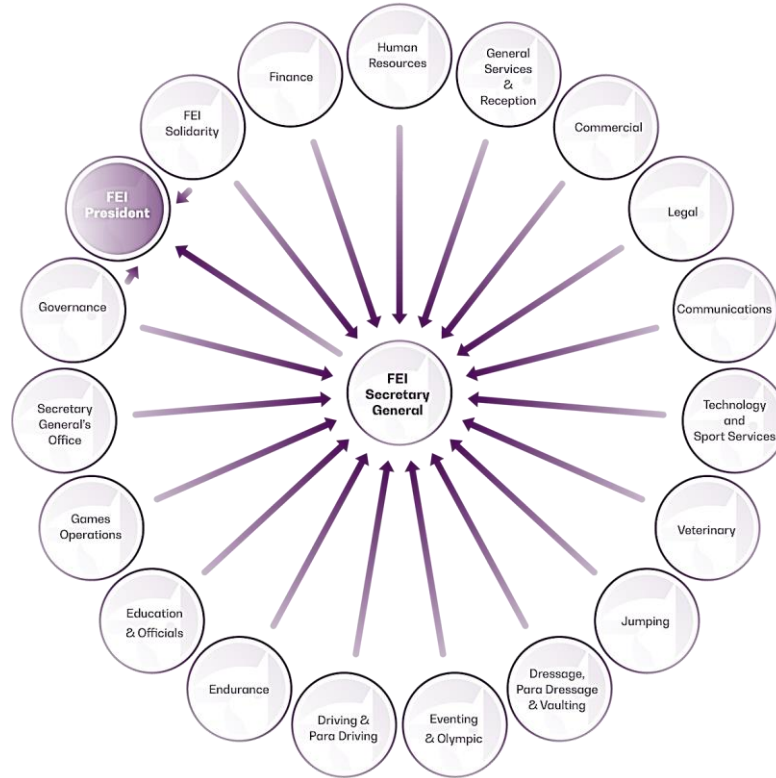


Enforcement:



Empowerment:

Implementing the EEWBC enablers within the FEI organisation



**Early
Recommendations
(6, A-F)**

**Final Report
Recommendations
(24)**

**Priority Area of Focus
(6)
- 32 Key issues**

**62
Action
points**

**What is FEI
doing?**

**How can FEI
support &
collaborate with
NFs & other
stakeholders/
organisations?**

**Possible FEI
actions?**

**What domain
of animal welfare
does this
aspect address?**

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?	EEWBC RECOMMENDATION	What domain of animal welfare does this aspect address?
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FEI Matrix of action - Workflow



✓
Consultation
process initiated
with various
stakeholder groups

✓
Interviews with
FEI
Departments
and Endurance
Chair

✓
Rule changes
approved
by the GA

- Compile interview
outcome
- Provide TC for
input

- Rule changes
- Implementation
- Education
- Communication

**A Good
Life
For
FEI Horses**



FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?	EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
+ Other recommendations					

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus		EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	<p>1) Training and Riding, Tack and Equipment</p> <p>1.1 'Movements of the horse appearing unnatural'</p> <p>1.2 Concerns about negative impact of 'rider frustration' on horse after disappointing performance, 'unethical training methods' and 'use of punishment-based training methods'</p>	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2			
3	<p>1.3 Concerns about continued use of 'hyperflexion' and 'rollkur' in training and competitions</p>		
4	<p>1.4 Bits</p>		
5	<p>1.5 Nosebands</p>		
6	<p>1.6 Spurs</p>		

FEI Matrix of action

Ethical training methods

1) Training and Riding, Tack and Equipment

What is FEI doing?

Possible FEI actions?

How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?

Develop guidelines/principles/rules/registration to ensure ethical training methods

FEI Matrix of action

Hyperflexion
/ Rollkur

1) Training and Riding, Tack and Equipment

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guidelines in stewards manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resume the work on 'hyperflexion' and 'rollkur' to address the complexity and formulate rules, regulations and educational material to ensure horse welfare	<p>Educate and communicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage in discussions with riders, trainers, officials, scientists, NFsEducate officialsEducational programs

FEI Matrix of action

Bits

1) Training and Riding, Tack and Equipment

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project on oral cavity health Aim: to establish an oral cavity control protocol to be used at FEI Events.✓ Part 1 - literature study –○ Part 2 Produce protocols to be evaluated in fall 2024○ Part 3 Pilot study at FEI Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benchmark information on how to properly fit and use equipment• Support research and development• Produce education• Dressage community to continue discussion on non mandatory Double Bridle within the rules revision process.• Consider implementing an exhaustive list of approved tack in all disciplines	<p>Educate and communicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Educational programs with conclusions from oral cavity project○ Explain rule changes

FEI Matrix of action

**Nose
Bands**

1) Training and Riding, Tack and Equipment

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new general rules provision to be effective across all FEI Disciplines as of 1 January 2025 (Veterinary Regulations (1044.8))• Developing an FEI Objective Measuring Tool• Developing protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration with relevant stakeholder groups during protocol development• Implement rule• Educate officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform stakeholders• Share protocol• Objective measuring tool available

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	2) Recognizing physical and emotional stress 2.1 Equestrians being unable to recognize stress-related behaviour in their horses	EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	2.2 Horses experiencing emotional stress during training and at competition events;	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2	2.3 Horses' physical health issues being poorly cared for/addressed	7,8,10, 17,18, 19	2,3,4,5
3	2.4 Safety issues and death of horses during competition		
4			
5			
6			

FEI Matrix of action

Safety

2) Recognizing physical and emotional stress

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk management programs, to identify risk factors• Eventing: reduced horse rotational falls with >50%• Endurance rules are based on analysis of identified risk factors• Mandatory post mortem protocols• Post event fatality project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue educate course designers and other officials• Evidence based updating of rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and communication on how to implement risk management programs• Request NFs to provide post mortem reports in all disciplines to improve quality of research

FEI Matrix of action

Safety

2) Recognizing physical and emotional stress

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Equestrian Charter• Article 142 - Abuse of the horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement the charter• Implement a Horse abuse-reporting form• Update the FEI Code of conduct for the welfare of the horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate stakeholders on the meaning of the Equestrian Charter• Increased collaboration with World Horse Welfare• FEI to provide model rules to NFs

FEI Matrix of action

Discussion
Point

FEI General Regulations APPENDIX O – The FEI Equestrian Charter

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental wellbeing of the Horse, and all Horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. The FEI requires all those involved in sport involving Horses adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount by pledging to the FEI Equestrian Charter.

1. I understand that it is a privilege to involve Horses in sport and this comes with responsibilities to the Horse.
2. I commit to respecting the Horse as a sentient creature capable of feeling both positive and negative emotions, and to ensuring its welfare is always my priority.
3. I undertake to continually develop my understanding of Horse behaviour and welfare needs, seeking evidence-based sources of information, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for Horses with which I am involved.

FEI Matrix of action

Discussion
Point

FEI General Regulations APPENDIX O – The FEI Equestrian Charter

New Appendix in the GRs approved by GA 23

Suggested implementation:

- Specific reference to it to be included in MOUs
- Include the Charter on the FEI HorseApp to be accepted every year the first time that is used
- Include the Charter on the Officials Exams
- Equestrian Charter oath in opening ceremonies
- Ask NFs to specifically include the Charter in their Rules?

To be implemented – how/where/how often?

FEI Matrix of action

No statute
of
limitation

Discussion point

FEI General Regulations Article 142 - Abuse of Horses

1. No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time
“Abuse” means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse.

2. Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a Protest (Article 161) without delay

If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 161) to an Official.

If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a Protest (Article 161) to the Secretary General who, following a review of the Protest, shall take a Decision as to whether or not to refer the matter to the FEI Tribunal.

Abuse of Horse



Offence	Low-End	Mid-Range	Top-End	Max
Abuse of Horse	3 months	3 months – 2 years	2-5 years	Life
	CHF 1'000 – 1'500	CHF 2'000 – 3'000	CHF 5'000 – 10'000	CHF 15'000

- FEI HQ/Legal Dept review FEI Officials Reports
- Legal Dept may open Disciplinary Proceedings, even if the Athlete had already received a Yellow Warning Card on site
- FEI Legal Dept may even impose sanctions (up to 3 months Suspension) without the need to go to the FEI Tribunal
- FEI urges all national NFs to implement the same rules as FEI - outside of competition and with no statute of limitation

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	3) Accountability, enforcement and knowledge	EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	3.1 Judges rewarding dysfunctional locomotion or expression instead of harmony and accurate biomechanics	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2	3.2 Judges rewarding 'big names' rather than best performance/stewards not calling into account 'big names'	7,8,17,19	2,3,4,5
3	3.3 Stewards not enforcing the rules and deficient in their intervention 3.4 Lack of adequately trained stewards 3.5 Lack of vet or steward checks	4,12,19, 20,21 & A,E,F	1,2,3,4,5
4	3.6 Reliance on traditional rather than scientific (evidence based) knowledge		
5	3.7 Lack of knowledge about good horsemanship and quality care		
6	3.8 Science-based information not being accessible, or used by, the equine community		



FEI Matrix of action

Accountability

3) Accountability, enforcement and knowledge

What is
FEI doing?

Possible FEI actions?

How can FEI support &
collaborate with NFs & other
stakeholders/ organisations?

1st of the Early Recommendations: Field of Play Regulations Across Disciplines

“Include in the FEI General Regulations a rule to apply to all Disciplines which would allow the President of the Ground Jury (or their designee) to eliminate an Athlete/Horse combination while a round was ongoing if the President of the Ground Jury (or their designee) decided that it would be contrary to the principles of Horse Welfare to allow the combination to continue the round.

The decision to eliminate was to be final and not subject to appeal or protest.”

3) Accountability, enforcement and knowledge

<p>What is FEI doing?</p>	<p>Possible FEI actions?</p>	<p>How could FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up on incidents and address the matter including sanctioning the official when necessary • Educate officials • Interact with Athletes • Implement and enforce • FEI has authority to use cameras on competition venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key staff to undergo education on application of the five domains for sports horses • Proposal: Produce video based simulations for training of judges in all disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Information • Education

FEI Matrix of action

Knowledge

3) Accountability, enforcement and knowledge

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and offer Educational programs• Officials exchange program• Dialogue with teams of officials• Commission and fund research• Several ongoing collaborations with scientists in projects such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Footing standards• Oral cavity health• Developing an FEI Objective Measuring Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FEI Campus upgrade• Request stakeholders to complete modules on horse welfare available in FEI Campus• Dialogue with officials in connection to specific events• Increase evaluation and implementation of evidence based knowledge• Implement the precautionary principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue collaboration with NFs in educational programs and to engage national officials to become FEI officials• Educational programs on horse management for grooms, stable managers, farriers• Veterinary Scholarship programme – licensed vets to expand their clinical skills• Share insights and initiate dialogue with stakeholders on evidence based knowledge

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus		EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	4) The other 23 hours 4.1 Inappropriate housing facilities: majority of life spent in box, not enough space, and lack of turnout	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2	4.2 Lack of opportunities to show natural behaviour and ignoring the horses' basic needs	7,8,17,25	2,3,4,5
3	4.3 Lack of opportunities for social contact 4.4 Unsuitable diets and insufficient roughage	4,12,19, 20,21 & A,E,F	1,2,3,4,5
4	4.5 Overprotective owners keeping their horses inside for fear of injuries	1,2,19	1,2,3,4,5
5			
6			



FEI Matrix of action

Discussion point



4) The other 23 hours

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Equestrian Charter• Abuse of horses • FEI Campus: Educational programs on horse management, ethics and welfare for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Grooms✓ Stable managers✓ Farriers • FEI Solidarity – globally conducting in person training courses Different languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further implement The Equestrian Charter • Educate and inform officials and athletes • Educate on how the five domains can be used... <i>(Based on key staff taking the course)</i> • Propose implementation of an Out of Competition Testing Programme SC:(session 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share material for self control programs • Continue with educational programs for grooms, stable managers and farriers

What more can be done to ensure equine welfare during the other 23h?

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	5) Competitive drive/the horse as a number/object	EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	5.1 Commercial interest being more highly prioritised than horse welfare	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2	5.2 Pressure on riders and horses to perform whether they are physically/mentally ready/prepared for it or not	7,8,17,25	2,3,4,5
3	5.3 Individual's ego and motives being of more importance than the horse's wellbeing	4,12,19, 20,21 & A,E,F	1,2,3,4,5
4	5.4 General ignorance about horses and their welfare needs	1,2,19	1,2,3,4,5
5	5.5 Horses being treated as 'machines' and not as sentient beings	5,19,21	1,2,3,4,5
6			



FEI Matrix of action



5) Competitive drive/the horse as a number/object

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<p>Project budgeted: Career profiling of show jumping horses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and evaluate risk factors connected to longevity of the career	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use results to suggest rule improvements to safeguard horse welfare• Adapt rules accordingly• Review rules and regulations in all disciplines to identify items that potentially could jeopardize welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate and inform stakeholders• Communicate• Make use of good examples, e.g. Swedish legislation• Collaborate with stakeholders such as WBFSH

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus		EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
	6) Not fit to compete/masking health problems		
1	6.1 Use of drugs or medical procedures to extend competitive life	8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2		7,8,17,25	2,3,4,5
3	6.2 Use of drugs to mask health problems/hide health issues	4,12,19, 20,21 & A,E,F	1,2,3,4,5
4	6.3 Horses not being fit to compete and yet still competing	1,2,19	1,2,3,4,5
5		5,19,21	1,2,3,4,5
6	6.4 Doping and issues with enforcement	11,16, 19,23	2,3,4,5



FEI Matrix of action



6) Not fit to compete/masking health problems

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EADCMP• Developing methods for in-competition testing• Limb sensitivity control• GPS on horses and rider• Exploring modern technology to evaluate fitness to compete• Establishing a standard for footing of horse inspection area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinary delegate seminar planned in early 2025, to discuss how to control horses' fitness to compete• A review of the principles of listing substances on the EPSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate NFs work with medication control and monitoring by showing good examples• Clean sport-program• Detection time list• Provide educations and campaigns

FEI Matrix of action



EEWBC Priority Area of Focus	What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?	EEWBC REC.	Domain of animal welfare
1	3) Develop and use an ‘equine centric’ design approach for FEI event planning and management to ensure that equine behavioural, social, physical (including thermal) and mental needs are a key consideration in choice of location/venues/provision of facilities and management of an FEI affiliated event			8,11,19 & B,C,D	2,3,4,5
2				7,8,17,25	2,3,4,5
3				4,12,19, 20,21 & A,E,F	1,2,3,4,5
4				1,2,19	1,2,3,4,5
5				5,19,21	1,2,3,4,5
6				11,16, 19,23	2,3,4,5
+ Other recommendations				6,7,13,14,15, 16,22,24	1,2,3,4,5



FEI Matrix of action



6) Not fit to compete/masking health problems

What is FEI doing?	Possible FEI actions?	How can FEI support & collaborate with NFs & other stakeholders/ organisations?
<p>Key Events Requirements (KER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 KER's included in GRs – biosecurity, facilities, services etc.• Collects data on all competition sites• A system of FEI monitoring KER requirements• Consequences in case of non-compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on non-compliance FEI may remove events from the calendar, seek OCs to implement corrective measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share output with OCs and NFs

Principle for the FEI equine welfare operations model



**PPT
to be published
today**

TC-interviews

**Proposed rule
changes
published**

**Specific
session
GA**

November

Today

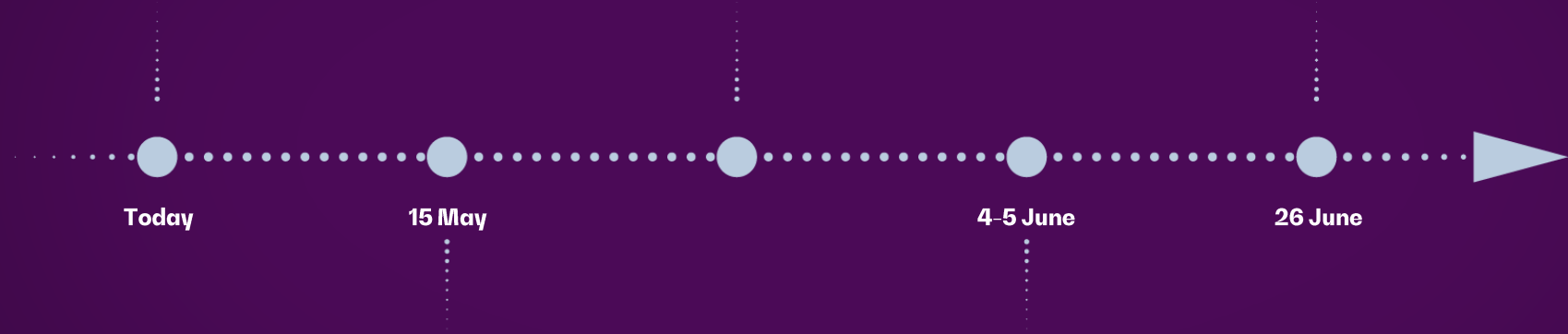
15 May

4-5 June

26 June

**Call for feedback
from stakeholders,
NFs by 15th of May
(e-mail address, 1st
of May)**

Board meeting





Thank You!



Questions?